

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

INFO OCT-01 H-02 ISO-00 SCA-01 SCCT-01 SY-05 /010 W

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R 241234Z AUG 76

FM AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8257

UNCLAS DUBLIN 1695

FOR SCS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CASC (KANE, DONALD E.)

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES

1. THE DEPARTMENT'S JULY 30 OM TRANSMITTED CORRESPONDENCE FROM CONGRESSMAN STUDD, INCLUDING A LETTER FROM DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF DONALD KANE OF THE BARNSTABLE, MASSACHUSETT TR POLICE DEPARTMENT. THE EMBASSY RESPONDED TO THE DEPTMENT'S OM ON AUGUST 16 (WHICH PROBABLY HAS NOT REACHED THE DEPARTMENT AS YET). THE AMBASSADOR ALSO RECEIVED A DIRECT INQUIRY FROM SENATOR KENNEDY ON THE SAME MATTER. BECAUSE OF THE DIFFERENT METHODS BY WHICH THE EMBASSY RECEIVED THE TWO QUERIES, SENATOR KENNEDY'S LETTER WAS RESPONDED TO DIRECT. THE TWO RESPONSES ARE NOT INCONSISTENT, BUT IN ORDER THAT THE DEPARTMENT MAY HAVE THE BENEFIT OF THE AMBASSADOR'S REPLY ALONG WITH THE CORRESPONDENCE FOR CONGRESSMAN STUDD, WE ARE QUOTING BELOW THE AMBASSADOR'S RESPONSE TO SENATOR KENNEDY.

2. " DEAR SENATOR KENNEDY:

"THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF JULY 20 ENCLOSING A LETTER FROM DEPUTY CHIEF DONALD KANE OF THE BARNSTABLE POLICE DEPARTMENT. CHIEF KANE HAD EXPRESSED DISAPPOINTMENT THAT HIS GROUP OF VISITING AMERICANS HAD NOT BEEN CONTACTED BY THE EMBASSY AFTER THE HOTEL IN WHICH THEY WERE STAYING HAD BEEN BOMBED ON SATURDAY, JULY 3.

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"I CERTAINLY SHARE YOUR CONCERN FOR THE WELFARE OF

VISITING U.S. CITIZENS IN IRELAND. NO ONE IS MORE AWARE THAN I OF THE HAZARDS OF TERRORISM, NOT ONLY IN IRELAND, BUT IN A GREAT MANY COUNTRIES OF THE WORLD IN RECENT YEARS.

" ATTENDING TO THE EMERGENCY NEEDS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS LIVING OR VISITING IN IRELAND IS ONE OF THE PRIMARY MISSIONS OF OUR EMBASSY IN DUBLIN. IN ADDITION TO THE FULL-TIME EMPLOYEES WHOSE JOBS ARE TO RENDER ASSISTANCE TO OUR CITIZENS, THE EMBASSY HAS A DUTY OFFICER SYSTEM WHEREBY A SENIOR OFFICER CAN BE REACHED 24 HOURS A DAY, SEVEN DAYS A WEEK, INCLUDING HOLIDAYS. IN ORDER TO PERFORM THIS FUNCTION, THE EMBASSY TELEPHONE SWITCHBOARD IS ALSO MANNED AROUND-THE-CLOCK. THROUGH THE OPERATION OF THIS SYSTEM WE GIVE IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE EACH YEAR TO HUNDREDS OF AMERICANS WHO FIND THEMSELVES EXPERIENCING A WIDE VARIETY OF DIFFICULTIES.

" I AM DISTURBED IF THE ST. MARY'S CHURCH GROUP WAS IN DISTRESS OVER THE SERIOUS INCIDENT IN ROSSLARE, THAT NO ONE CONTACTED ME OR THE EMBASSY FOR HELP. YOU MAY BE SURE THAT, HAD THEY DONE SO, NO EFFORT WOULD HAVE BEEN SPARED TO ASSIST THEM. I HAVE CHECKED WITH OUR DUTY OFFICER WHO DID NOT RECEIVE A CALL. I HAVE ALSO CHECKED OUR FILES CONTAINING ADVANCE NOTIFICATION OF TRAVEL AND ITINERARIES THAT MANY GROUPS SEND US, ALSO WITHOUT AVAIL.

" I AM PLEASED TO HEAR THAT NONE OF THE GROUP WAS INJURED IN THE INCIDENT BECAUSE OF THEIR ABSENCE FROM THE BUILDING AT THE TIME. PERHAPS IT WAS BECAUSE OF THIS FORTUNATE ESCAPE FROM HARM THAT NEITHER THE C.I.E. TOUR GUIDE NOR THE ROSSLARE POLICE DEPARTMENT (WITH WHICH WE HAVE EXCELLENT RELATIONS) SAW FIT TO NOTIFY US.

" I HOPE THAT, DESPITE THE UNFORTUNATE INCIDENT, THE ST. MARY'S CHURCH GROUP HAD A REWARDING TRIP TO IRELAND."
CURLEY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 24 AUG 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976DUBLIN01695
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760323-0495
From: DUBLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760827/aaaaawig.tel
Line Count: 98
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SCSE
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: cahillha
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 MAR 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <19 MAR 2004 by ReddocGW>; APPROVED <28 JAN 2005 by cahillha>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRIES
TAGS: CASC, (KANE, DONALD E)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006